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May 13, 2008

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Improving interoperable communications capabilities of first responders was a critical reason for mandating the completion of the digital television transition by February 2009. As many, including the 9/11 Commission and the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, have pointed out, there are grave inadequacies in today's public safety communications networks.

While the 700 MHz auction appears to be a financial success drawing nearly \$20 billion in bids, we are concerned that it has fallen short of the needs of our nation's first responders. In particular, we note the absence of a winning bidder for the auction's so-called D-Block.

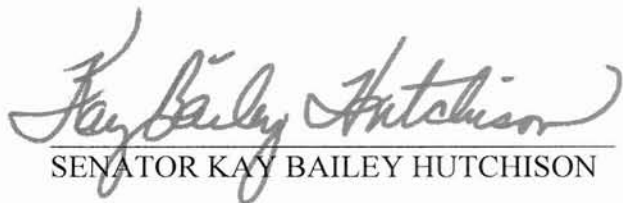
The license that has been designated as the D-Block was to be used to build an interoperable, nationwide network that could be shared with public safety and emergency response organizations across the country. As human and natural threats to our country have made clear, it is vital that federal, state and local emergency responders have access to nationwide cutting-edge communications capabilities in order to best protect Americans from harm.

With the auction over, we are at a crucial juncture for public safety. We trust that you share our belief that our public safety officials deserve nothing less than the best, most advanced, and most robust interoperable communications systems. Accordingly, as you consider how to proceed next with the D-Block license, we encourage you to pursue a path that is consistent with the original goal of building a nationwide emergency response network for public safety.

Sincerely,



CHAIRMAN DANIEL K. INOUE



SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY



SENATOR BYRON L. DORGAN



SENATOR THOMAS R. CARPER